

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 794

By Norris

A RESOLUTION designating the Medical Education and Research Institute as a Simulation Center of Excellence.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should recognize those venerable organizations that endeavor to improve the quality of life for Tennessee's citizens; and

WHEREAS, as a non-profit medical teaching and training facility in Memphis, the Medical Education and Research Institute (MERI) is one such estimable organization that conducts state-of-the-art, hands-on educational courses and medical simulation training for physicians, nurses, and other health care professionals from across the country and around the world; and

WHEREAS, inspired in 1992 by Memphis neurosurgeon, Dr. Kevin T. Foley, MERI is governed today by a 12-member board of directors and boasts a projected economic impact of \$54 million and 675 employees by 2014; and

WHEREAS, MERI strives to provide the best-possible training experience for Tennessee's health care professionals by supporting research in all specialties of medicine, introducing health care providers to the latest innovations in medicine, and providing all of its students with the opportunity to learn about the most up-to-date medical techniques and technologies; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, MERI added a medical simulation center in order to provide training to and assess the competency of local health care providers, as well as prepare Tennessee's medical professionals to respond with speed and precision should a local disaster occur; and

WHEREAS, by enhancing the skills of both health care students and experienced practitioners, this important simulation technology improves health outcomes and patient safety and reduces medical errors and the costs associated with providing patient care; and

WHEREAS, MERI being designated a Simulation Center of Excellence would reinforce Tennessee's standing as the best place to live and work for health care professionals and the public, enabling MERI to attract more students from across Tennessee and the world; and

WHEREAS, MERI would be able to use its impressive resources and unique status as a Simulation Center of Excellence to bring Homeland Security, Department of Defense, EMS, and National Guard training to Tennessee, making Tennessee the best-prepared state for disasters; and

WHEREAS, designation as a Simulation Center of Excellence would also facilitate MERI's deployment of medical simulation technologies and the commercialization of cutting-edge medical simulation research; and

WHEREAS, with pending federal legislation likely to elevate simulation technology to the forefront of medical disciplines, MERI's unique position will allow it to secure federal funding to enhance its simulation technologies and better equip Tennessee's health care professionals to improve the health and well-being of all Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee is fortunate to have such an excellent resource as the Medical Education & Research Institute, which has distinguished itself as a pioneer in the field of simulation technologies and its employees and physicians continue to strive to exceed their students' expectations by providing the highest quality medical education possible; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that, in recognition and appreciation of its numerous contributions to the training of Tennessee's health care professionals and its unrivaled dedication to simulation technology, we hereby designate the Medical Education and Research Institute in Memphis as a Simulation Center of Excellence in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.